

9 March 1953

Memorandum for: The Director of Central Intelligence

Subject: Liaison with the Congressional Leadership

1. It is noted that in the present top senatorial leadership, only Senator Knowland of California has ever received a detailed briefing on CIA activities. In order for CIA to receive top leadership support on various questions concerning the Agency, it is recommended that consideration be given (with the approval of the White House) to the DCI giving a full CIA organizational and operational briefing to the following Senate leaders:

The Vice President

Sen. Robert A. Taft, Majority Floor Leader

Sen. Eugene D. Millikin, Chairman of the Republican
Conference

Sen. William F. Knowland, Chairman of the Republican
Policy Committee

Sen. Lyndon B. Johnson, Minority Leader

2. None of the Republican leadership in the House, Speaker Martin, Majority Leader Halleck or Majority Whip Arends, has ever shown any affirmative interest in CIA. As a member of the House Armed Services Committee, Congressman Arends had some knowledge of the organization prior to General Smith's directorship. In the past, Mr. Halleck has been known to be unfriendly.

On the Democratic side of the House, Speaker Rayburn has never been briefed by CIA and has left the leadership liaison with CIA to Congressman McCormack, the former Majority Leader, who is now the Minority Whip. Congressman McCormack has always been more than helpful in spearheading any assistance which CIA might need on Capitol Hill. It is recommended that this cordiality be maintained.

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